

Max Arnsperg (1897-1948) is one of the remarkable masters of modern watercolour, in whose creative evolution technique was extensively and thoroughly involved. His painting, which has enabled the artist to be pointed out — to "transcribe emotion and optic impression without the aid of conscious effort", Portraits in Brilliant with fishing boats anchored near the wharves, bridges stretching across the uneasy surface of the waters, the view of the city of Saigon, the Thames, channels guarded by sumptuous palaces reminding one of Vanlee's past glory — that is the work of this artist. The working manner demonstrates a perfect mastery of the secrets of watercolor. It is supple and elegant, with brilliant assurance towards the purified and transfigured,

Water, to which his painter attaches the greatest importance in the organization of his works, becomes the main component of the landscape, the other elements being ordered in accordance with this hierarchy. In structure at the limit of an often high horizon and under its apparent motionless surface one guesses the forces of nature which give an impulse to the ferment hidden in its depths. Above, human activity seems governed by the same order, corresponding to the inner rhythm deduced from the painter's synthetic vision.

The sky, the light, the air do not exist in the painting as they do in the photographic phenomena to the artist's outlook, but are adequately manipulated to preserve the general tonal values of the vistas permeated by an ineffable (but) light which the painter Nicolas Toulza said that it was Arnold's great art, particularly in the architectural structures or in the landscape. Sometimes with fine shadings of grey in the aerial landscapes, sometimes with warm ochre and brilliant pinks as to the oriental landscapes, light is used to tell the viewer of the sensitive and mero nuanced. The work's musically is also enticed by the artist's fine perception of light, sensibly of light, not at all dramatic, but of a total in the infantile cosmic depiction.

P. GEORGESCU ■



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IN LINE WITH QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY DEMANDS

NICOLAE CEAFESCU'S WORKING VISIT TO ACCOMPANY CLIENTS IN OLT.

The General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, Rumania's President Nicolae Ceausescu paid a working visit to industrial and farming units in the south of the country on Thursday, June 16.

The axle and bogie manufacturing enterprise of Italy, a unit representative for the Romanian rolling stock industry staffed with almost 8,000 workers, and the slate farming unit of Redden, Oil county, as well as the producer cooperative farms of Pinarul Teleorman county, and of Ciocăreni, Giurgiu county, were seen round.

the town of Hailu, President Nizkor was personally involved together with the managerial staff, with experts and workers, way in which production culture is being introduced, as aspects related to the technical equipment of the enterprise, and the quality of the production process. At the meeting with members of the working people's council and of the party committee of the enterprise, Nizkor stressed that the factory was well equipped, which provides the possibility of obtaining high production results. He asked the managerial staff and experts to take adequate measures for the elimination of existing deficiencies in the state of affairs, for the efficient use of equipment and production capacities, and for a steady increase in the level of

In the farming units visited, a survey was made of the stage of barley harvesting, of the measures taken for harvesting wheat crops in time and without losses, and for properly tending hoed crops.



THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST GARDEN



The specialists in Romanian farm research institutes and stations develop new plant varieties and hybrids resistant to diseases and pests, adapted to the specific climatic and soil conditions, which yield large, high-quality outputs, and diversify and improve crop technologies. These are together targets set in accordance with the demands of a modern, intensive-type agriculture.

On pages 8-9, the extensive cooperation referred to the activity of the Institute of Research in Vegetable and Flower Crops of Vidra and the Banescu Farm. Fruit Research Station.

IMPROVING THE NEW ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MECHANISM

Among the numerous ideas set forth in the report, the Communist opposition at the meeting of the Political Executive Committee of the CC of the RCP at the end of April, highly important are those referring to the need for improving the work of the acquiring organizations—firstly, mechanization, based on the principles of worker self-management and, self-administration.

Selling out from the workers' surplus is scored in the document as a major failure of the Party.

plan, but especially from the shortcomings and hardships manifested in certain economic sectors, the Party General Secretary stressed that all these lapses and, to the formal manner of working, shortcomings, "the failure to carry out in time the measures apt to ensure the modernization and improvement of the various activities, the firm basis of production on self-management, self-administration."

(Cont. on p. 3)

(cont on p. 3)

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST GARDEN

Villages where gardening is a traditional occupation can be found south of Bucharest. Producers with fresh fruits and vegetables go from here to market places in the Capital and other towns in the country. Especially Vidra gardeners are well known for their skill. It is not by chance that the Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Floriculture was founded

there in 1967. The gardening experience of the inhabitants of the village on the Sabar river banks was useful as a starting point in the competition for bigger crops. Even the land used by generations of vegetable growers ensured the application of adequate technologies from the very beginning. Thus, more than two decades ago, Vidra became the country's first big garden.

HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE VARIETIES

A continuous struggle is carried out at Vidra in order to increase the plants' productive potential. A lot of perseverance is hidden in the success of homologating new varieties. Years of researches bring to light, out of millions of seeds, those seeds carrying the germs of a new plant or, as the specialty language puts it, the combin-

cultivation. One of them is the Unirea mixed variety for industrialization and consumption, with a production of 80 tons per hectare. Another variety Roma 553 created only for industrialization with the jelly-gum, ensures picking without stem and therefore the obtaining of a superior quality paste, with a productive poten-

variety, rich in sugar, resistant, whose fruits can weigh as much as 300 grams each, has a productive potential of more than 40 tons per hectare. The pea varieties having great genetic resistance in winter, the okra, napon and bean varieties round off the picture of Romanian vegetable growers' achievements.



tion of valuable characteristics into the same genotype. In the last years, variety series were homologated for almost all vegetables at the Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Floriculture. They were included in specially catalogs but did not at that stage. In a relatively short period, they were generalized in production. Valuable creations were obtained for tomatoes, plants occupying the biggest area meant for vegetable

lial of 80 tons per hectare. The Laura variety, having a productive potential of 110 tons per hectare, has been created to be consumed fresh. The Cometa, Aroma, Muntonia and Milasola varieties of green pepper, another plant growing over large areas have been generalized in recent years. They are characterized by a thick, soft pulp and pleasant taste. Particularly valuable are the new capsicum varieties. The Trian

FOR A CONSTANT BIOLOGICAL VALUE

A healthy fruit is a true victory. For this victory to be repeated with millions of fruits, a vast activity is carried on at the Vidra Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Floriculture to maintain the biological value and productive capacity of these varieties. This is in fact the sector that holds the main place in the Institute's activity. This large garden supplies seeds to all the country's vegetable growers. The head of the seed-producing laboratory, engineer Cornel Pășcuș, emphasized the concerns for us: Every year, the Vidra Institute carefully and responsibly prepares the seeds for the future crop. Recently, new conservative selection criteria have been worked out based on the utilization of selec-

tion criteria, on knowledge of ascetics and improvement which result in the production of seeds with a high biological purity and higher physical indicators. To this end, a programme of improving seed quality has been worked out for most species, aimed at halting the production of biologically low-quality seeds (second multiplication). This programme ensures the maintenance of the parental lines of vegetable hybrids, taking into account the genetic drift.

In this large seed-producing institute, researchers have also been directed towards the improvement of production technologies. For instance, new technologies have been developed for the production of early leaved, onion, carrot, radish and cauliflower seeds, and this year the new technologies for garden beans are being tested. From the selection of storage conditions, maintaining the seeds' vigor to the establishment of the duration of their conservative treatment, the area of the Institute's activity covers an important volume of researches.

Seeds from the laboratories and experimental plots of the research institute of the Vidra Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Floriculture are supplied to the country's vegetable growers.



SOWING MACHINE WITH OSCILLATING BAR

The specialists of the central station for soil erosion control research of Petru Poni developed a sowing machine for arable land with a view of five per cent which, thanks to an oscillating bar, observes the sowing depths recommended by agronomists. This sowing machine is of the "carried by a tractor" type, being able to perform concomitantly sowing at a depth of 4-5 cm and distribute fertilizers to a depth of 6-15 cm. The new machine can be adjusted to the existing conditions of farming machines, ensuring better crops especially for weeding growths.

A PERMANENT DIALOGUE

Until the end of this decade Romania's vegetable production is expected to reach 12 million tons. Directly contributing itself to this goal, the Research Institute for Vegetable Growing and Horticulture has set out to create new genotypes by genetic

engineering methods, to make the study of genetic physiology and biochemical mechanisms which determine the plant's qualitative and quantitative characteristics and to improve the methods of developing vegetable varieties and hybrids.

The eight programmes worked out by species and groups of species aim to create new biologically productive varieties, hybrids, to increase their resistance to diseases, their quality, the better utilization of the land stock by early, successive or associated crops, to optimize fertilization, reduce fuel consumption in order to attain these targets, the Institute conducts a permanent dialogue with similar research institutes in the world and with vegetable growers in this country. Virgil Pop, scientific director of the Institute, offered us a few conclusions: data on the performance of this exchange of experience: "Annually, we have exchanges of publications with almost one hundred similar research institutes. In the year 1981, the exchange of information is an exchange of information on research already conducted or just preliminary studies which are extremely useful because thus we can separate the performance with those that are not. We have exchanged traditions in growing vegetables. At the same time, we have similar research programmes with similar institutes in the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and also with relationships with French, Italian and Dutch vegetable cultivation stations.

In order to keep vegetable growers in our country in touch with the latest gains in the field, we publish many works of popularization which are of great interest. List of new broods, folders and booklets present new diseases and control methods, research results, technologies, addressing the vegetable growers in the field. We want to specify that we have, whenever a special situation requires, a special team making this diagnosis, a team that is able to actively intervene in the field. These are necessary.



A FASCINATING UNIVERSE

In the splendour of every fall one can find the work and diligence of vegetable growers, of all those working in this field. Sowing and transplanting, harvesting and selling turn goods to consumers are stages of a work reflected in the quantities of vegetables marketed. Less is known about what is actually done during each of these stages to record a truly abundant crop. An excursion into the laboratory of the Institute of research in vegetable and flower-growing opened for us the gates to a fascinating universe.

At the laboratory of agrochemistry, biochemistry and physiology researcher Violeta Lăzărescu supplied us with a few,

posts is another vast field of research in which the Institute specialists can display remarkable achievements. An important step in this direction was made by approaching biological control of plant pests. The elaboration of the technology of launching a wasp called trichogramma evanescens, the artificial growth and stocking of two species of insects — coccinella septempunctata and adonia variegata — are fertile directions of action of the Institute's entomologists. Sciences for the integrated control of pathogens agents and growth pests aim at curtailing the number of chemical treatments and diminishing the pollution of environ-



extremely interesting data. One more, interdisciplinary collaboration, is to be found in the results of this laboratory. Promoting themselves to work out mathematical models calculating doses of fodder and irrigation means, researchers will soon be able to offer vegetable growers a precious guide in the ratio of growth and development of plants depending on the quantity of water and the nourishing elements existing in soil. As part of the collaboration with the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology specialists plan to draw up a model simulating plant growing on the computer. This model will help forecast the evolution of a culture in a certain ecosystem and, naturally, the measures required in the event of a climatic accident. Plant protection against major

ment and vegetables with pesticides remains.

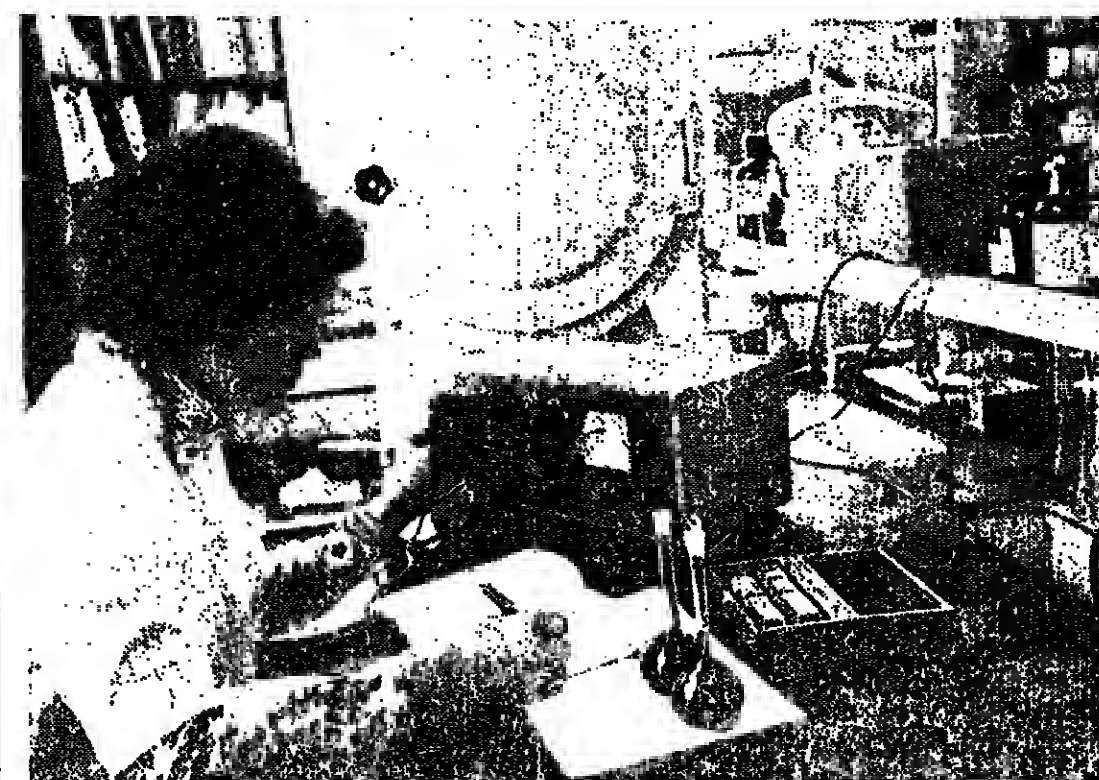
A team of researchers from the Institute deal with flower growing. Annually, this department delivers 60-70 kg of seed and more than 4,000 bulbs of tulips. On its parcels, the Institute grows 240 species and types in perennial and annual collections, 80 types of tulips, 180 types of roses, field flowers, ornamental graminaceae. Which means that part of the beauty of parks and green spaces is brought here, in the laboratory, and gardeners of Vidra. For his achievements, the Institute received a prize of a content of Romanian flower growers called "The Symposium of Tulips", annually staged by Micael municipally.

MARILENA TUTILA

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INTO MUSHROOMS

Specialists of the Mogosoaia farm, a research and production unit lying in the agricultural belt of Bucharest, as part of the vegetable and flower-growing research Institute of Vidra, carry out a wide-scope and complex programme of research in the field of mushrooms.

The farm of Mogosoaia produces and delivers significant quantities of mycelium to state-run and cooperative farms as well as to many private growers, at the same time supplying specialists documentation and assistance.



HIGH-PERFORMANCE TREE GROWING

A team engaged in tree growing is being conducted in many countries of the world at present for ensuring the high quality of the existing tree varieties and for developing new varieties, boasting special properties. Genetics, physiology, pathology, biochemistry, biochemistry are intensely collaborating in shaping the desired biological material. In this context, in Romania multidisciplinary collectives of specialists are translating into fact the provisions of the national fruit farming development programme investigating the tree patrimony in laboratories, with test tubes and microscopes, and on the research plots and looking for recipes for fruits with optimum natural properties. One of these tireless researchers, producer and supplier of valuable tree material is the fruit farming research and production station at Băneasa near Bucharest.

Planting of the researchers' disposal 82 ha of tree plantations, the station specializes in apricot and peach, because of the pedoclimatic factors favourable to these two thermophilic species offered by the area. The sun- and heat-loving apricot and peach set themselves to be explored here, in exchange of the researchers' efforts, yielding rich fruit with valuable properties. Five apricot varieties and five peach ones have been homologated at Băneasa, their creators being excellent researchers Victoria Bălan and Antonia Ivășan.

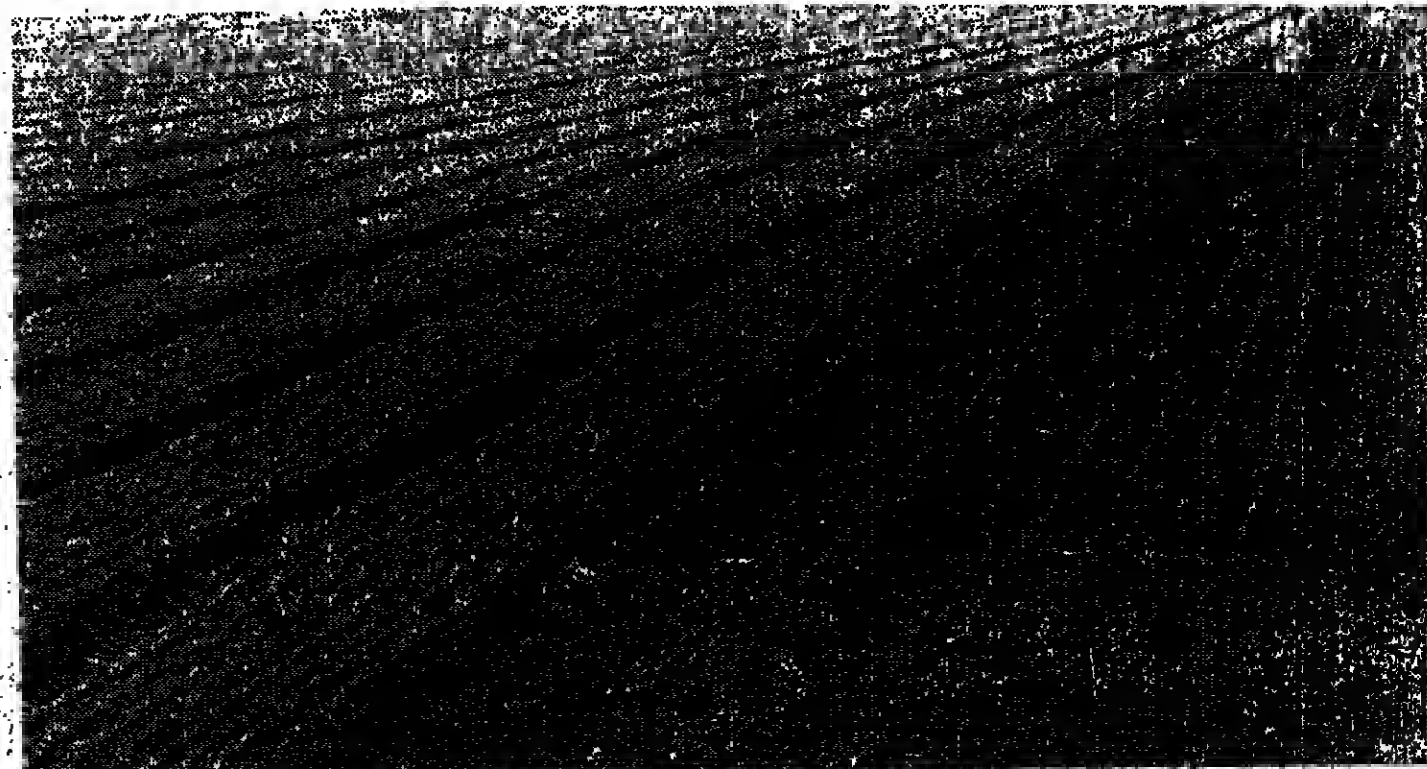
Native to Central Asia, the apricot has been cultivated in Europe and probably in Romania for more than 2,000 years, during which it has found many local adaptations. For instance, the winter of 1933 destroyed 90 per cent of the flower buds of the apricot varieties under cultivation at that time. That sad experience proved once again that this sensitive fruit tree had to be prepared to resist inclement weather. The new varieties homologated in 1981-1983 at Băneasa — Băneasa Red, Cometa, Olimp, Favorit and Excelsior — were first put to the test in 1985 when they resisted the smallest losses. While 75-100 per cent of the buds of other apricot varieties were destroyed in the 20 winter days with -20°C and lower temperatures, Băneasa Red — 82 per cent, Olimp — 16 per cent, Cometa — 17 per cent, Favorit — 18 per cent, Excelsior — 15 per cent. The high sugar and Vitamin C content, the balance between sugar and acidity are other special qualities of these now apricot varieties.

New varieties of peaches have also been developed. Over 1983-1987 five varieties of dessert peaches were homologated at the Băneasa fruit farming research and production station: Trumf, Victoria, Congress, Supra de toamnă and Splendid. The new peach varieties, which are intensively cultivated, are highly productive and their fruits have remarkable organoleptic qualities. Alongside the apricots, the new peach varieties went through the difficult January-March 1987 period

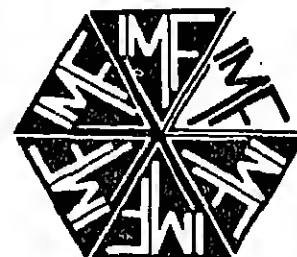
without great losses, yielding satisfactory outputs.

The newly developed indigenous apricot and peach varieties are highly resistant to diseases and pests, ensuring the fruits' health and disease- and pest-resistance is in fact a major concern of the Băneasa Station. "The new apricot varieties passed the difficult test of the period when the Monilia laxa and Clasterosporium carpophilum fungi strongly attacked them, demonstrating great resistance and requiring few chemical treatments", said researcher Victoria Bălan with the joy of a physician who has healthy patients. Let us also add that the fruits produced are first quality. The ten varieties of apricot and peaches are in great demand in the home and foreign markets, and can hold their own fresh and industrially processed. Ten varieties, two abnormally: Victoria Bălan and Antonia Ivășan. The two workmates and collaborators seem to be at present the only women researchers specializing in apricot and peach genetics and improvement in Europe. The exceptional qualities of the new apricot and peach varieties were acknowledged on the occasion of the two researchers' participation in the international symposium on apricot and peach growing — Romania, 1981, Varna, 1983, and Budapest, 1985, and in the international horticultural exhibition in Erfurt.

MILENA MIHAESCU

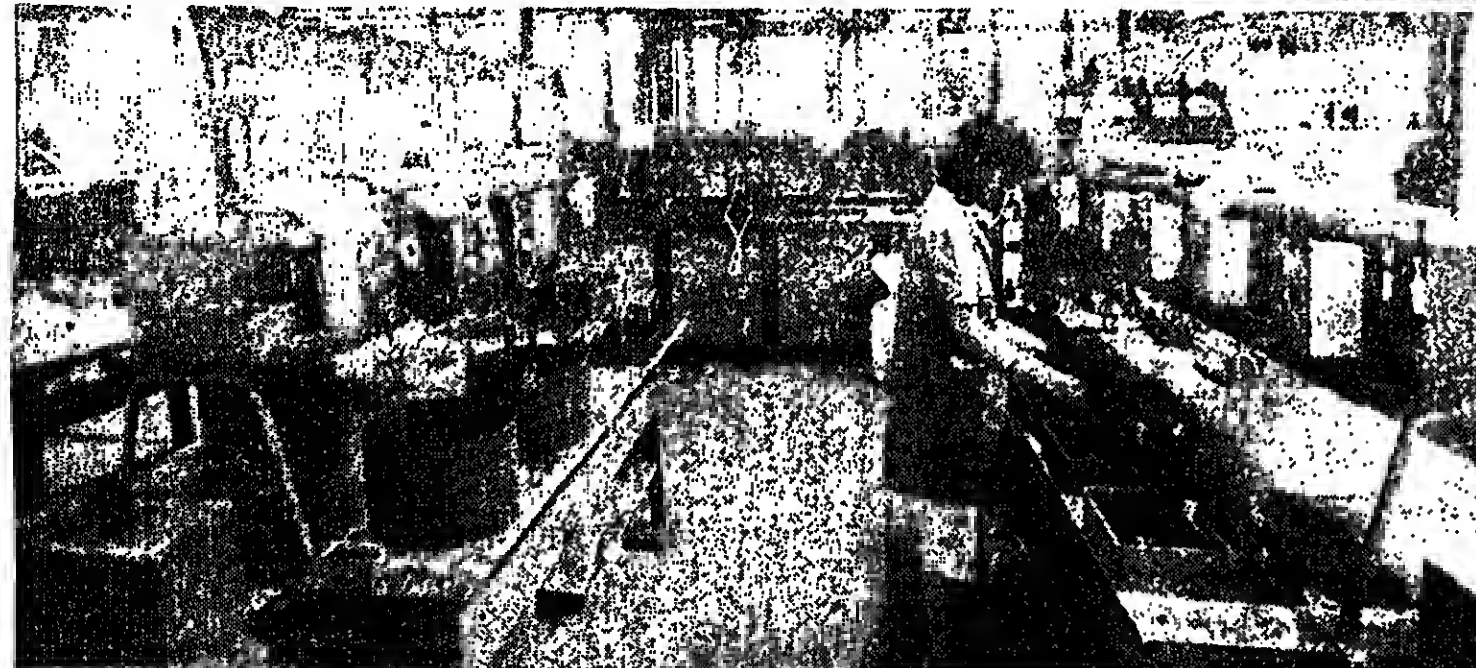


THE FINE MECHANICS ENTERPRISE



The Fine Mechanics Enterprise of Bucharest, one of the big producers of measuring and gauging fixtures in Romania, offers high-accuracy devices for the measuring of external, internal, circular and flat dimensions, gear, surfaces and angles. Its manufacturing programme includes dial gauges and micrometer calipers with dial indicator, direct-reading and comparison measures

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ensure dimension accuracy, economy of time, giving suitable orders according to the programme.

The vocation for top performances in the twelve enterprises of the CIME is solidly grounded on the activity of its own Institute of research, design and technological engineering for fine mechanics and tools. A real centre of technical and technological creation, the Institute supplies ideas and solutions to productive departments staffed with highly skilled workers and technicians able to impart the highest quality to each product. The direct relationship between research and production, the continuous flow of information between those who design and those who execute products, the guarantee for the high technical level and accuracy of the measuring and control devices produced by the CIME enterprises.

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In order to achieve its programme, the Fine Mechanics Enterprise adopted and improved the latest technologies specific to each family of products. One of the many possible examples are the diamond wheels with galvanic bond for processing a wide range of materials. Starting from the technology bought from the Walter company of West Germany, the Fine Mechanics Enterprise has achieved almost twice as many families of diamond wheels than the licence initially contained. Among its performances we could mention the wheels for the electronic industry used for cutting integrated circuits, transistors and thyristor plates. The width of the cut is only 0.25 mm, which substantially reduces the waste of expensive materials resulting from cutting. We could also mention the diamond wheels with galvanic bond used for cutting synthetic resins, the wheels for processing sintered metal carbides, etc.

The fruit of the Fine Mechanics Enterprise's creative efforts is the active control devices used directly on machine tools. Intelligent devices equipped with electronic logic and sensors, they ensure



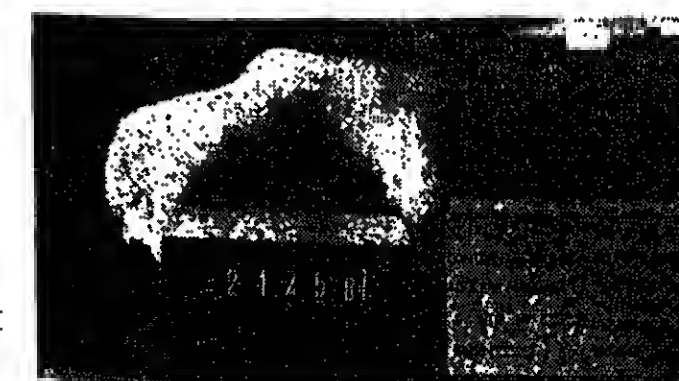
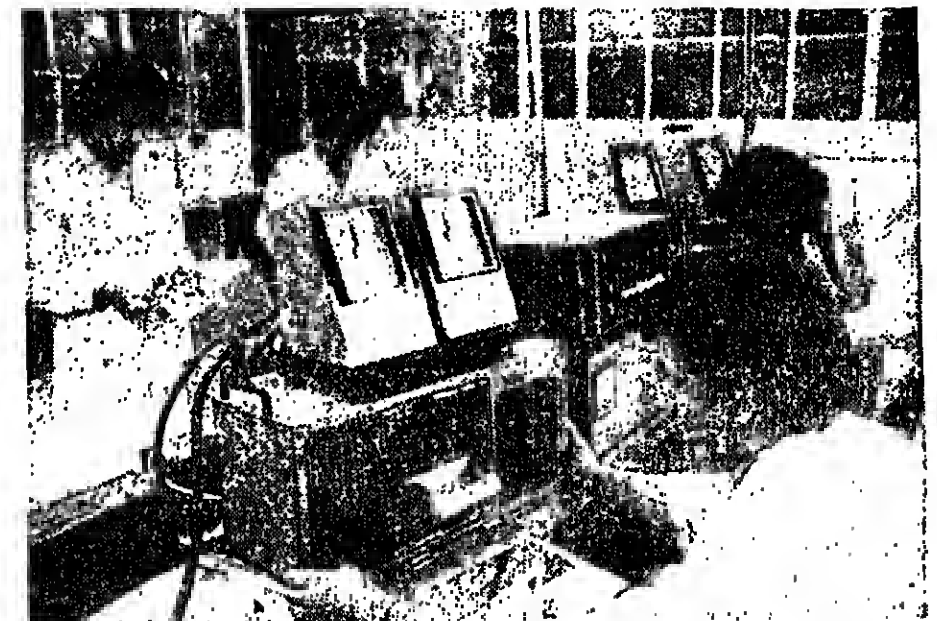
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ON THIS PAGE:

- vertical micrometer with electronic counter
- electronic speedographs for locomotives
- impulse electronic counter for counting machines
- projector microscope checks

ON THE ADJOINING PAGE:

- View from the galvanic workshop of the diamond tools section
- View from the length measuring and control apparatus section



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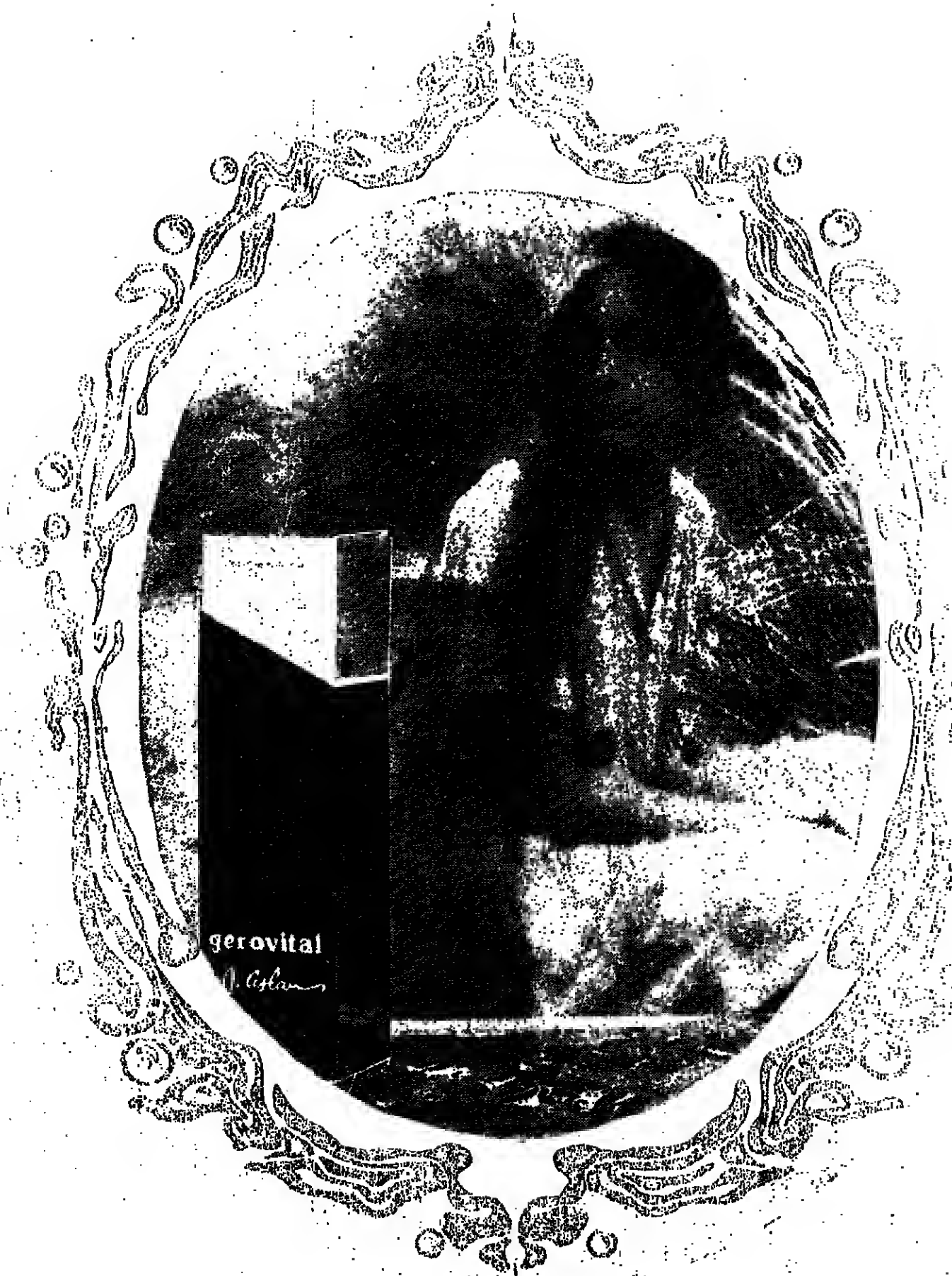
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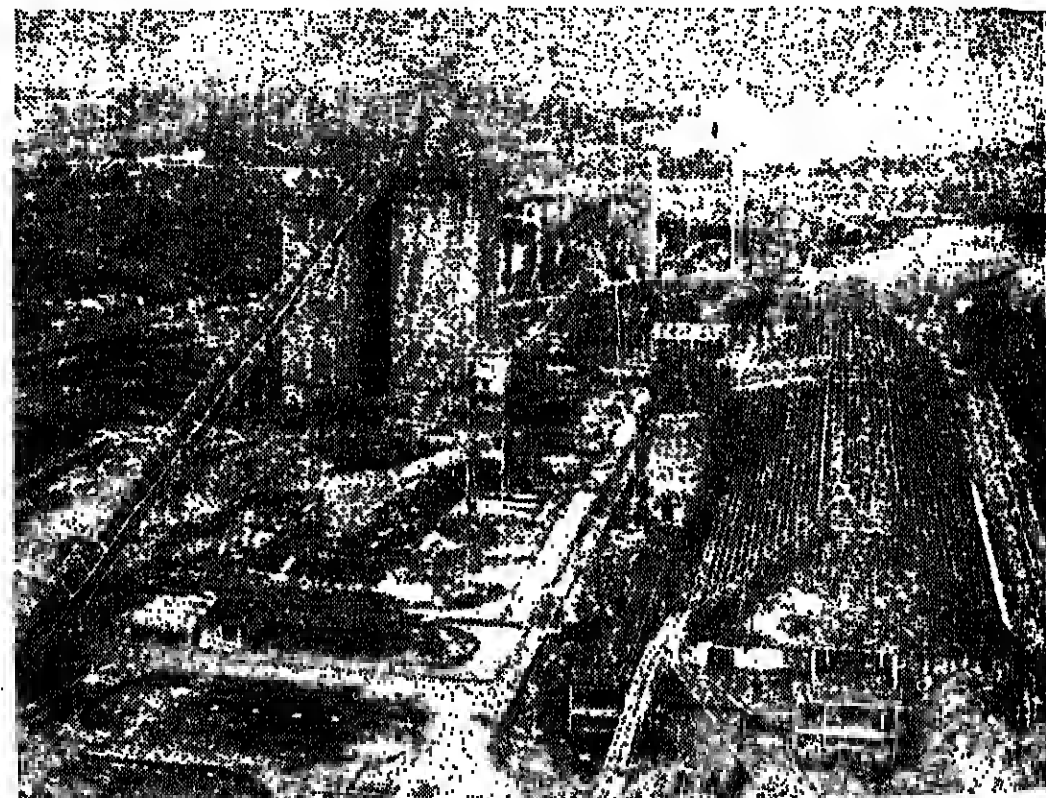
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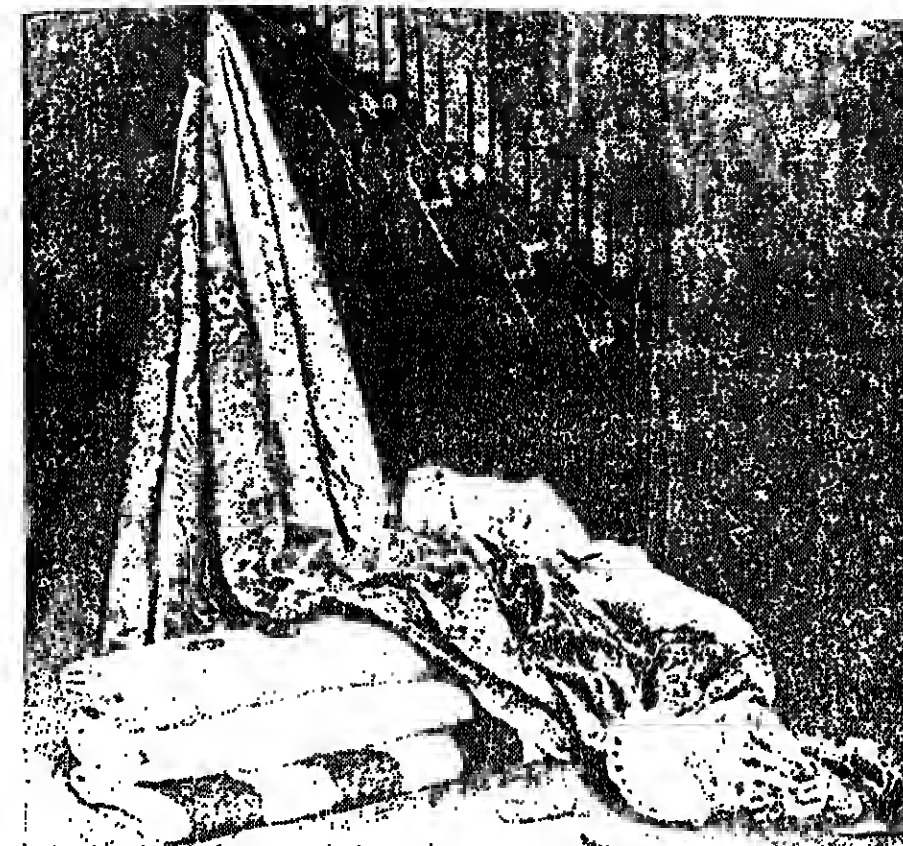
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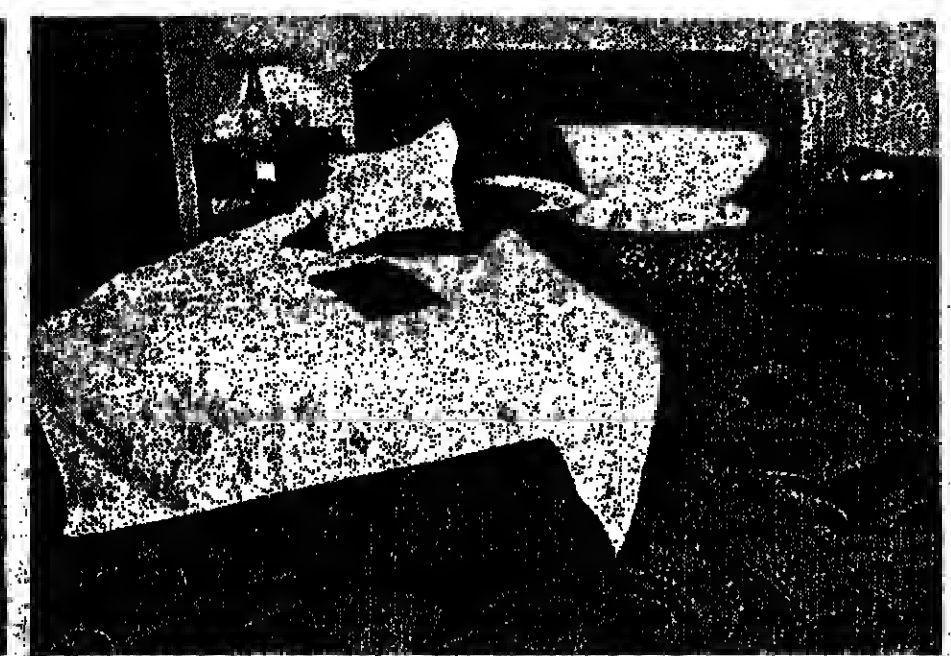
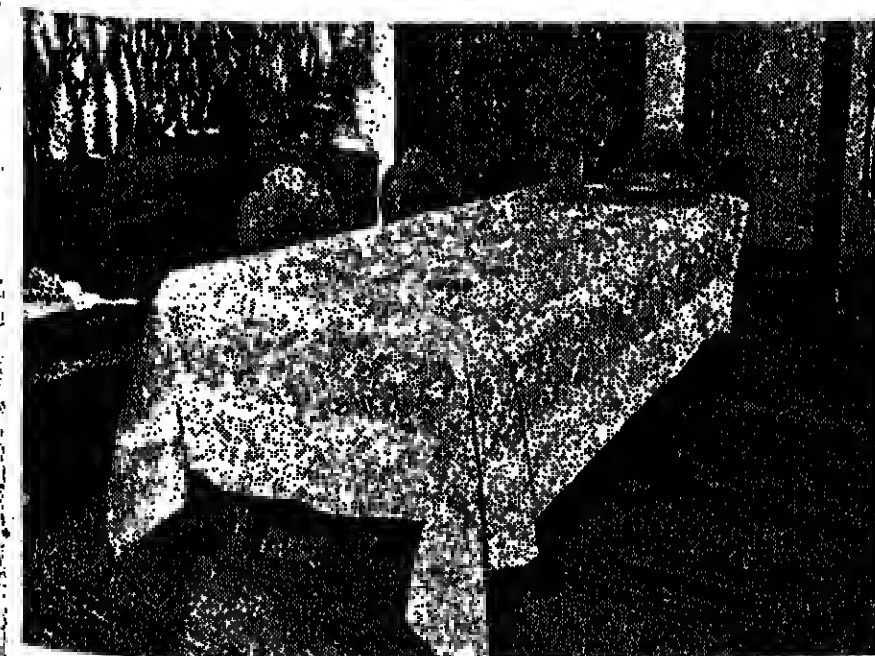
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RESIGNATION THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

While boasting a certain tradition of staging "popular" plays, the Cluj Theatre has not failed to tackle "pieces of resistance" either. With the current production of King Lear, that establishment has provided a major cultural event of this season.

The show is highly original in its modernity, being a directorial creation in this first place. This is the second Shakespearean staging for director Marin, 33, philosophy and stage direction graduate with a rich theatrical experience and a remarkably coherent outlook, whose credits also include productions of J.L. Carrigale, Moore, D.J. Popescu, Marin Sorescu, Haraid Pinor etc., as well as three prestigious prizes (one for Traian and Cezar, Traian, 1983). To King Lear, Marin proposes the whole Shakespearean regular intact, without resorting to cuts or simplifications. However, the show's chief quality lies in the translation of the play's immense significance into the frame of Romanian actuality and of contemporary culture.

Also outstanding is Constantin Ciabotaru's symbolic scenery, painted in a neutral color that fully accords with the show's ideological requirements.

After Corado Negreanu achieves a striking interpretation of Lear, with a skillful command of the most devastating emotions, rigorous acting, a progressive implication offering with intense character outbursts and ending with a resigned but profound wisdom, stressed by his own madness (this is one of the director's main theses). A philosophical significance is imparted to the character Kent (skillfully performed by Sabin Văgharșanu), whose dominant trait is loyalty, perfectly highlighted by a nuance which particularizes him with respect to all the other characters. For Kent suggests to us a higher thought: it is not loyalty towards Lear (the man and the king) that he pursues but loyalty per se, in an absolute sense, and his pursuit is totally devoid of fanaticism. He pursues it methodically and impersonally, as this is his creed. Cordellio is an affirmative variant of Kent, achieved with an accuracy which imparts dignity in the first place, through measured detachment and a hardly perceptible control of her grief (adequately impersonated by Illeana Cernău). The other two sisters, Regan and Goneril, intelligently and persuasively played by Olga Burdianu and Aneta Neculea, polarize the whole negative tension of the play.

C. CALINESCU

THE ART MONTH

POCSANI. Under the title Miorita, an ample cultural event took place in Pocsani throughout the month of May. The event was organized by the Pocsani county Socialist Culture and Education Committee within the national "Song to Romania" festival. At the fifth edition the Art Month, Miorita included, in its programme, symposia and thematic micro-reviews, artistic poetry readings, exhibitions, book releases, theatrical and film premieres, meetings of magazine editors with the public.



MUSICAL MEETINGS

Recently at the Culture Palace in Arad, the Arad Philharmonic (with the guests, Bulgarian conductor Ivan Vulpov and Bucharest pianist Dan Grigore) performed the closing concert of the "Arad Musical Days" (including symphonic and vocal-symphonic, chamber and choral programmes, recitals and music and poetry shows, as well as the symposium "Harmosonism — the Main Trail of Contemporary Creation"). In the same period, the 13th edition of "Musical Timeliness" offered an interesting concert by wind instrumentists of the chamber orchestra of "Banat" Philharmonic under the baton of Radoslaw Gurgacz, under the aegis of the Socialist Culture and Education Council, by the local fora and institutions.

ROMANIA ABROAD

PEOPLE'S CHINA. On Romania's Roads is a reportage book written by Fan Hua and illustrated by Feng by the Chinese Publishing House in Beijing, the book opens with a hood-winked dedication by the Chinese Minister of Tourism Linna Ke-lua: "May the flowers of the Carpathians and bloom more beautifully on the Great Wall". Chen Zhiyong sings the Chinese readers with data of the Romanian people's history. The remarkable success of the book in the last few years as well as with the beauty of the places and monuments of the Great Wall.

Another volume, Notes from My Visit to Romania authored by art historian Linna Ke-lua, mainly focuses on topics related to the Romanian people's history and art and describes museums and old and contemporary Romanian art.

The People's Publishing House in Taiwan, which previously has released Linna's first novel in a Chinese version, signed by Chen Kowen, a fine connoisseur of Romania. The translator also wrote a short introduction including data from the book. The book is a valuable source of information and observation regarding the Romanian people's history and art, and it is a must for the Chinese cultural context.

new version of Schreber's novel Rasconia (The Unleashed) was brought out, and was revised and republished in 1983.

Finally, the Army's Publishing House has released the volume The Economy and the National Defence, by Lt.-Col. Stelian Fenean, and The Economic Efficiency in the Military Field, a synthesis of studies, both of them translated by Du Wolgast and Chu Yiping.

FRANCE. Recently added to Romania's list of artists is the participation in the prestigious spring international salon hosted by the Grand Palais de Paris, favourably remarked by a specialized exhibition. This is his second participation in the event (the first one was in the autumn salon), which paved the way to his winning the coveted title of full member of this international (the first time). His participation is a tribute to the up-coming, where the sculptor will exhibit works which in the course of time have featured in his "one-man or international" shows. Recent works will round off the exhibition. As an illustration of the esteem enjoyed by the artist, a stamp reproducing one of his marble works has been issued by the Republic of San Marino, famous for its numismatic and philatelic.



VILLAGE ARCHITECTURE

After the launching of "Traditional Architecture — a Defining Element of the Village Specific", exhibiting organized under the aegis of the Socialist Culture and Education Council, the Village and Folk Museum in Bucharest hosted a lecture session with topical themes: "Village New Architectural Designs for Rural Settlements". At the same time, the Council of Light Industry Products and a folk costume parade were organized. There was also a meeting with Gory's sons, to which ensembles from Tuzna, Tia and Meire were invited.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

Known to music lovers in the whole country as a devoted performer of George Gershwin's music, Dan Mizrahy has recently appeared at "Bucuresti Romani" hall in Bucharest, as a pianist interpreting his own compositions. Eight times the laureate of the "Golden Chrysanthemum" song contest, Dan Mizrahy, with the participation of prestigious interpreters of the Romanian lyrical stage, presented the Bucharest public works from his creation. Called "The Portrait of a Genre: the Lyrical Song", the concert was presented by composer Dumitru Copotanu.

FINE ARTS CIRCLE

ALEXANDRIA. Under the aegis of the Union of Romanian Artists and of Teleorman county Socialist Culture and Education Committee, Alexandria hosted the exhibition of a painting and graphics exhibition (15 local artists were present), an occasion when the Stelian Buzdaru circle was founded.

PREPRINTS

The recent book of essays Mihaila Muta, by Andrei Pleșu, brought out by Cartea Românească, to which the very House, does not fill the gap left in Romanian philosophy by the works of the recently departed Constantin Dobrescu, philosopher of the fact, experienced by each biography in particular, in the preface and in the last chapter, Andrei Pleșu confesses, with extraordinary sincerity, that he wrote the book out of the need to find the uniqueness of coherence in the whirlpool of incoherence, which is the story of each biography, preferring to explore the "interval between moral obfuscation and enlightenment", to test an "order of looking for the truth", the technique of waiting for an answer rather than the rigidity of a strict moral criterion. That is a decisive step towards the recovery of moral imperative as it involves the ontological predestination from the Pascalian aporia, taken over essentially by Nemes: "you wouldn't be looking for me if you had found me". Mihaila Muta is to fact, a preface written out of the

feeling of the urgency of a concrete orientation in the multitude of everyday facts. It is "minimal" to the extent to which the very writing finds its minimality in relation to the maximality of the preoccupation, which should work from the interior of the fact experienced by each biography in particular, in the preface and in the last chapter, Andrei Pleșu confesses, with extraordinary sincerity, that he wrote the book out of the need to find the uniqueness of coherence in the whirlpool of incoherence, which is the story of each biography, preferring to explore the "interval between moral obfuscation and enlightenment", to test an "order of looking for the truth", the technique of waiting for an answer rather than the rigidity of a strict moral criterion. That is a decisive step towards the recovery of moral imperative as it involves the ontological predestination from the Pascalian aporia, taken over essentially by Nemes: "you wouldn't be looking for me if you had found me". Mihaila Muta is to fact, a preface written out of the

COMPUTER SIMULATES VISION AND BREATHE

For several years now, a team of experts of the Automata Faculty in Bucharest headed by professor Ion Dumitrescu has focused on the study of the sight and breathing functions.

As early as 1973, the team together with ophthalmologist Dr. Maria Dumitrescu, head of the ophthalmological clinic of the Colentina hospital, has approached the question of cybernetic modelling of the visual system, with a view to identifying the real behaviour of this complex and delicate biological system. Starting from the anatomic-physiological qualitative characterization, Dr. Maria Dumitrescu has identified the afferent subsystems of the pupillary action control, the control of the eye globe movement and of the accommodation and processing of the information by the retina and nervous system. The multi-model characterisation and simulation

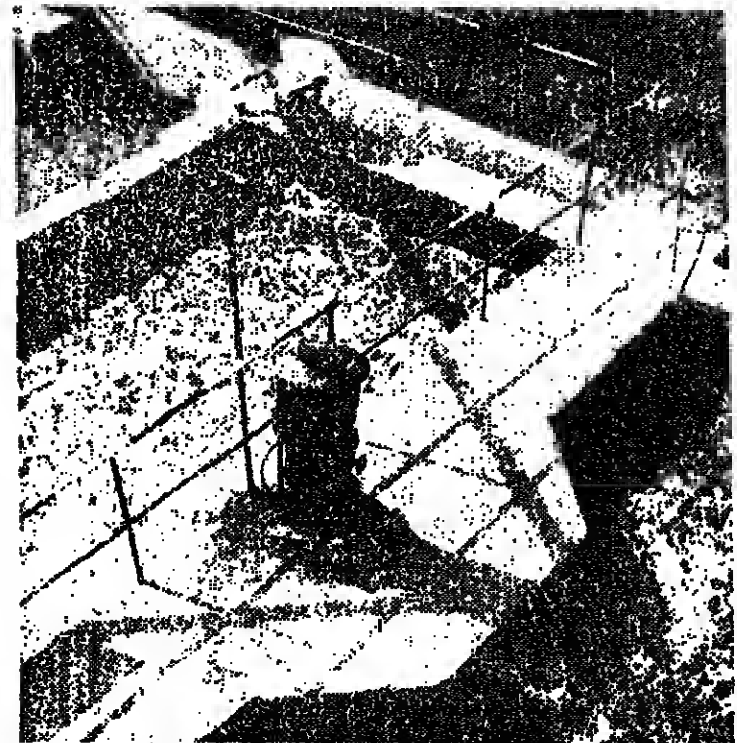
on the computer of these subsystems and of the whole system have made it possible to grasp the mechanism of sight, with applications to the achievement of performing systems of artificial sight, highly important to the training of high-performance robots and of control and shape-recognition systems.

On the basis of the knowledge accumulated, the team of experts has started building acquisition and information systems through the artificial sight mechanism. These systems make it possible to collect with enhanced accuracy the data defining objects lying in the space of action of a robot. There is no question of a faithful copying of the whole mechanism of sight, which face the time being is doomed to failure, but of building equivalent structures allowing the acquisition of visual information.

A second line of action of the team, concerning the achievement of performing systems for the automated control of breathing in anaesthesia and intensive therapy, has materialized following the collaboration with professor George Litorek, head of the intensive care section of the Faurel hospital.

On the basis of the chemical data and taking into consideration the anatomic-physiological processes, mathematical models have been built for the quantitative characterization of the breathing function. Taking into account the variation of the osmotic pressure model obtained according to the individual anatomic-functional characteristics, to the patient's age and illness, the researchers have undertaken to build systems adjustable to individual cases for the automated control of breathing.

ROXANA MANOLESCU



BIOCHEMICAL STUDIES

Romanian researchers in the realm of biochemistry have been systematically studying over 300 species of plants in the continuous and cultivated flora with a view to extracting the raw material base for the pharmaceutical industry. Special attention has been paid to boxthorn, a shrub containing vitamins, ethereal oils, alkaloids, etc. The boxthorn extracts have proved both experimentally and clinically most efficient in the rapid healing of wounds, in ophthalmological, hepatic, renal, arterial treatments. The carotenoid substances in boxthorn have been successfully used in cosmetics and the food industry. Dietetic and tonic products have been assimilated in production.

Another plant too, Adonis, has proved to be rich in carotenoid substances. The Romanian experts are studying this plant together with the biochemists of Rhode Island University of the USA. They pursue to work out intensive growing technologies and the plant's genetic modification. It seems Adonis negatively is a plant of great economic value.

The Institute of Agricultural Research of Cluj-Napoca studied the possibility of increasing the content of substances of medical concern with ordinary plants such as maize, wheat, soy, etc. Obtained were lines and hybrids of maize which contain increased quantities of provitamin carotene.

AN ANTI-POLLUTION STUDY

Industrial Waste Water Treatment is the title of a study recently put out by the Technical Publishing House under the supervision of engineer Mircea Negulescu, DSc. The first volume discusses the quality conditions required from treatment plants, the modern depolluting processes applied in various sectors: animal farms, food industry, (especially chemical industry, textile industry, leather industry etc. Description of the modern industrial waste water purifying plants and of the technological processes applied. There are more than 4,300 industrial treatment plants and many other installations and systems of extracting various useful substances from industrial waste water, and the techniques of using technological waste.



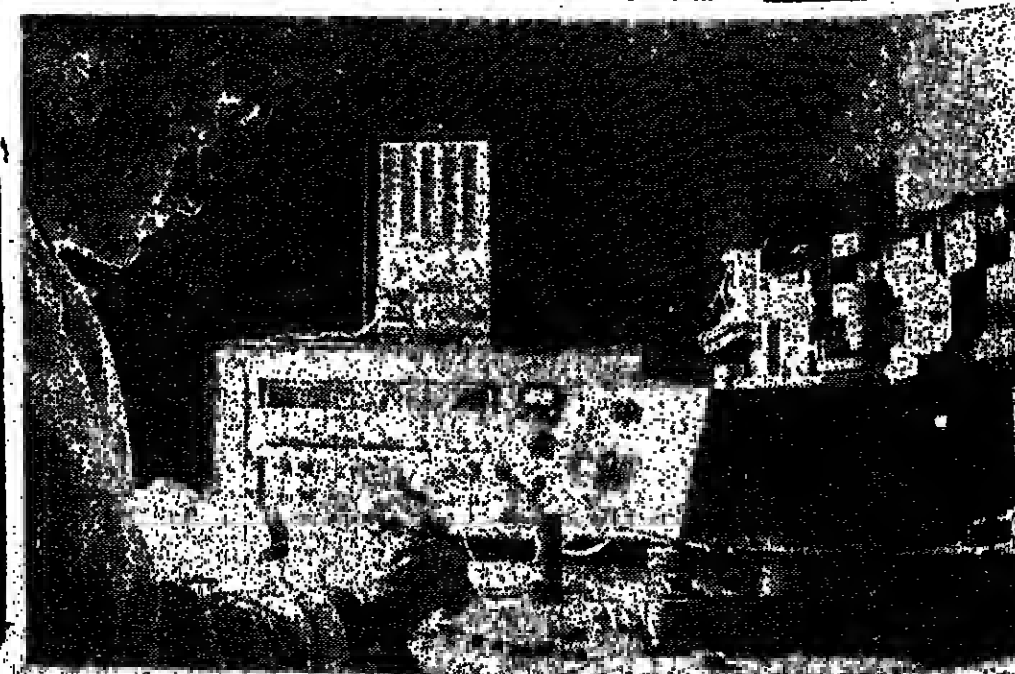
HIGHER CAPITALIZATION OF RAW MATERIALS

Romanian experts have developed economically profitable technologies of extracting useful substances from low-grade ores, especially zirconium, titanium, manganese, niobium, gallium, selenium, tellurium, nickel and others used in high-tech branches such as microelectronics, nuclear power and the aerospace industry. Recently completed studies hold out the possibility to capitalize on potassium deposits. The technological method worked allows of obtaining several substances such as potassium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium oxide, plaster, a.s. from ores having barely a few per cent of useful substance. Another success is the original technology of turning to count the rare earths in

the olivine sands having a poor content of useful elements. This technology makes it possible to extract sizable amounts of titanium and zirconium. Our knowledge of these raw materials, made up of scientific and industrial practitioners have developed highly valuable finished products: alloys, pipes, salts, etc. Other multidisciplinary researches have also led to the identification of manufacturing technologies for various construction materials such as concrete enriched with thermoplastic additives.

Currently under way are researches pursuing the collecting and industrial use of waste substances from industry, power generation, etc. New, efficient technical solutions have been

Top and centre: The Institute of Mines and Metallurgy, Bucharest, is studying the possibility of extracting useful substances from industrial waste water. Below: Bala Bala mining research centre.



THE ROMANIAN MAN'S "CLINIC"

The International Federation defines sports medicine as a clinic of the healthy man, a branch of preventive medicine which studies with its own means the physical exercise associated with environmental factors, to the effect of contributing to the correct formation of certain skills and the harmonious development of the human being (the formative function), to the prevention of diseases and traumas, as well as of efforts of any kind, including those imposed by the professional activity (the prophylactic function), to the maintenance of a morpho-functional balance with middle-aged people and to the recovery after work (the maintenance and restoration function), to the treatment of sequelae of afflictions or traumas (the recovery function), thus directly intervening in raising the quality of the social environment as a pathological factor, the influence of the dwelling and of the working conditions, urbanization and pollution phenomena. This discipline also deals with the correction of deviations from the normal morphological or functional behaviour with old people (the corrective function).

FROM SPORTS MEDICINE TO MEDICINE FOR EVERYONE

At the same time, by making a thorough analysis of methodological and biological aspects of sports training, this discipline aims at improving the function of the human body through an adequate adaptation to the stress represented by the psycho-physical effort, ensuring a scientific support able to help athletes reach sports performances. Naturally, throughout the six decades of existence of the International Federation of Sports Medicine, various tendencies have been manifested, some of them identifying sports medicine with the pathology of effort and recovery, others with the physiological or biomechanical analysis of the physical effort. This is not the place to go into details, yet we shall mention that from the confrontation with time and relying on the efficiency secured so far, including that obtained by turning to account the rich information of a state-of-the-art fields, such as aerospace medicine, sports medicine seems to be ahead of the medicine for everyone from the scientific point of view, a fact which can be explained by taking into consideration the record-breaking "mirage", the leap of biological performances in sports grounds, as well as the intensive research made in all the countries known to have preoccupied in this field. We can already speak about the generalization of conclusions, facts, and about a transfer of the biological knowledge to professional sports at the level of supra-threshold, we can speak about adaptation to environmental factors, nutrition-medication, recovery after effort, etc.

ROMANIAN FIRSTS IN THE FIELD OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

The question of assessing, preserving and promoting the state of health is a major goal of the Romanian medicine and sports medicine, materialized also in the prompt assimilation of novelties produced by biomedical sciences. The usage of updated technologies allowed not only a very exact valuation of the anamnestic standard, but also the establishment of the most proper time for the resumption of the sports activity, following an acute affliction (viral hepatitis, neuritis, etc.). The complex methods of biophysical diagnosis have been established and published in Romania, being now accessible to sensitive prophylactic, curative, and rehabilitative activities. The qualitative increase in the health of the population is healthily the most important of the present, the resumption of the state of health of the body surface with the help of an adap-



EFFORT CAPACITY STUDIES

Another object of the Romanian sports medicine is the definition of the functional state and of the effort capacity. The two notions which interrelate begin to find their place in the exact definition of the health condition. Indeed, it is hard to admit today that a healthy person can have a low capacity of effort (aerobic, for a long period, or anaerobic, taking a few

seconds) or that he has an inadequate, non-economical, unbalanced functional state. As a matter of fact, recent studies have established a close correlation between the effort capacity and the notion of health, or between the effort capacity and longevity. In our opinion, a study of cardio-respiratory functional tests (the lactate test, the lactate test) or indirect tests, assessing the maximum aerobic power, the maximum capacity to resist effort, taking four, five or more minutes, should be introduced in the current medical practice, the same as health people, both young and old, should be advised to use the Astrand or Cooper tests which, though superficial, are very useful in assessing a person's health condition.

ADAPTATION AT HAND

Physical activities are usually carried out in the open. From this point of view, the sports efficiency is influenced by the environment understood as a macro- or micro-climate. The organization of sports competitions in variable natural conditions — from the sea level to altitudes of three or four thousand metres — has determined sports medicine to undertake bioclimatic research on the adaptation of performance in order to establish the effect of these factors on the competitive level, on the biological potential and on the adaptive mechanism. The studies made in Romania on the occasion of the Olympics held in Mexico, provided extremely useful novelties for high performance sports events, but also certain conclusions concerning the bello-maculo and mountainous sports for healthy people or people suffering from frequently neglected afflictions. For instance, now we know that the non is a stimulating climate and, consequently, it has to be avoided by sportsman during competitive seasons, that billy

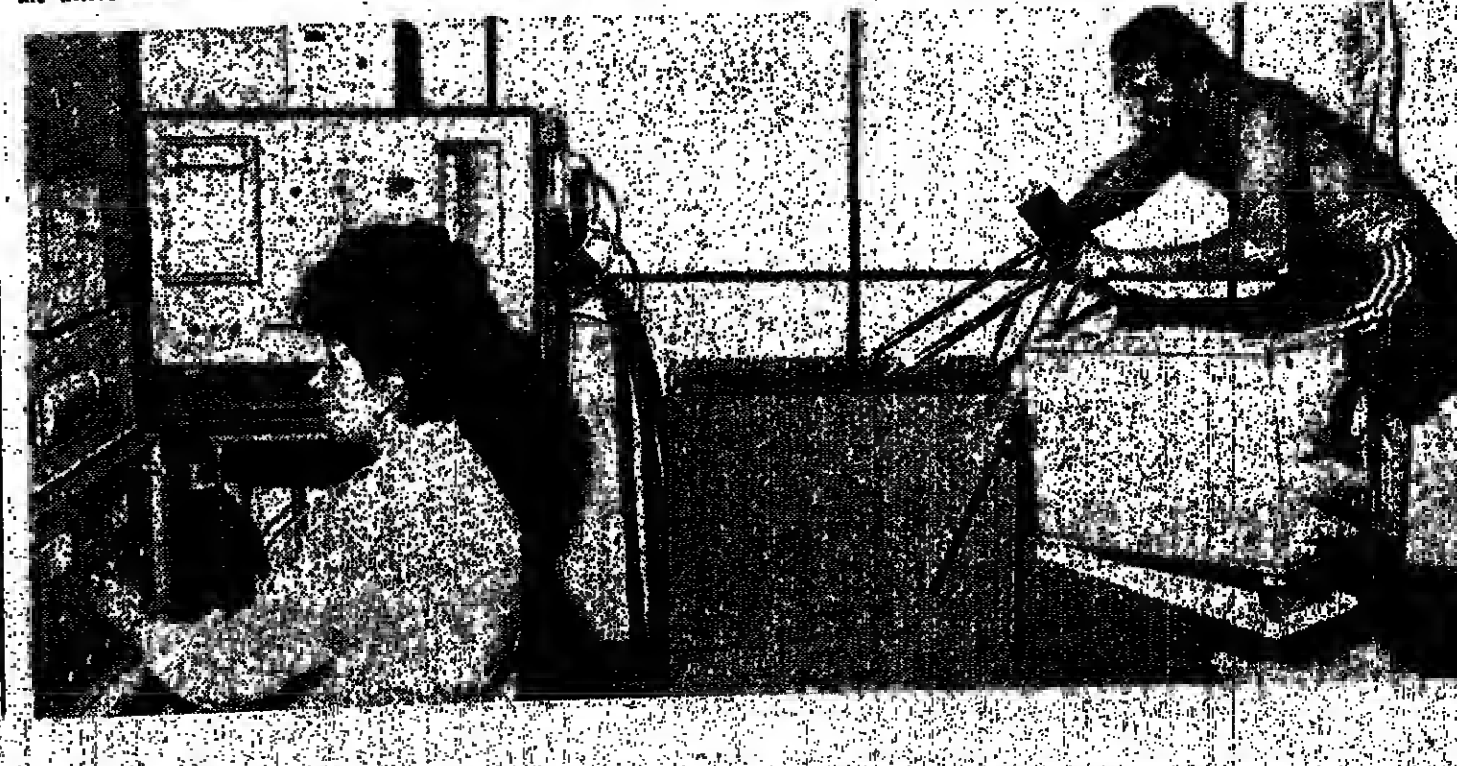
and forest areas (800-1,000 m) offer an excellent framework for recovery after stress or too much effort, that the altitude stimulating at an altitude of 1,000-2,000 m. In the case that after three weeks of training the sportsman requires an increase in the intensity of effort which is maintained in the plateau, with the exception of the first seven or ten days of re-adaptation, marked by certain functional disorders. From these truths, verified by us also in the case of the Los Angeles Summer Olympics, we started to apply, in our opinion, a series of conclusions on a given number of social and professional categories. Thus, 1. who are tired or exhausted from long work should spend their vacation on the mountains at altitudes of over 1,000 m only after a period of recovery in a moderate area, at 600-800 m in height. In the case of heart, broncho-renal, osteoporotic, thyroidal, neuropsychic afflictions, the cure at rest should be undergone only in the plain or at an average altitude, excluding the possibility of chasing one of the extreme climates.

As far as the people suffering from physical disabilities are concerned, especially young people with sequelae after pulmonary afflictions, they should opt for a "billy" doping at three or four weeks in a hilly area. On the contrary, the centers of rheumatic diseases or of rheumatic sequelae will have to avoid average altitudes where the climate is more humid.

These are firm conclusions obtained through a minute research carried out by the Romanian Centre of Sports Medicine and which have broadened the prospects of the best treatment for the preservation of the population's health.

Academy Professor Doctor IOAN DRAGAN
Director of the Centre of Sports Medicine in Bucharest

Images from the consulting course of the sports medicine center in Bucharest. Besides researches into sports performance, doctors provide physical recovery and conditioning treatments for morphological and functional disorders.



HIPPOCRATES IN A BOTANICAL GARDEN

At the beginning of this century, an experimental centre was being set up at Cluj-Napoca. The object of research — the medicinal herbs. This moment of pioneer scientific work is still spoken about today in the specialist literature. Some 40 years ago, part of the team of those times moved to Tîrgu Mureş, a town where the specialized study of medicinal herbs was organized within the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy. This moment too is marked in the international scientific literature. Also at that time, bases were laid for a garden of medicinal herbs and aromatic plants, one of the few of this kind in Europe and one of the biggest as far as the number of cultivated and pre-

pared their superior qualities as compared to those derived through chemical synthesis. The Romanian specialists got ahead of these preoccupations. The interdisciplinary teams from the Pharmacy Faculty in Tîrgu Mureş have focused, in a first stage of activity, on selecting and systematizing species with high therapeutic properties. Then they began lab studies and tests. At present, after ample researches aimed at obtaining useful drugs with excellent actions in fighting diseases of the central nervous system, certain internal affections, the professors and students of this faculty are the authors of over 70 drugs based on medicinal herbs. These drugs are produced in the labs of

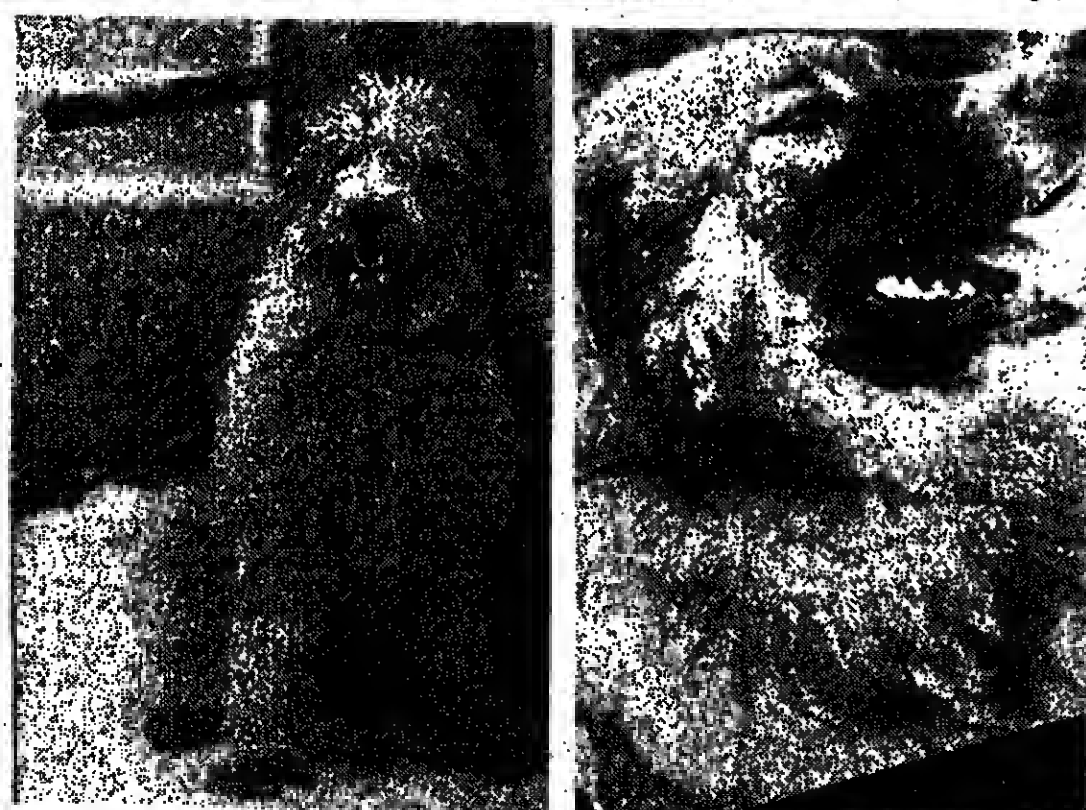
the faculty and in a chemical lab of the pharmaceutical network in Tîrgu Mureş, which is also the base of applicative learning in the Institute. It goes without saying that in order to develop these researches and at the same time to increase the quantity of medicinal herbs, the Tîrgu Mureş specialists also as production base, besides the botanical garden many other areas organized within specialized farms. The medicinal herbs are industrially processed in a pilot station. They will be processed now by a modern drug factory that has recently come into operation in Tîrgu Mureş.

MARIAN CONSTANTINESCU
Photo: V. MOLDOVAN



served species is concerned. In this town, there is also a representative "seed library", and a pioneer catalogue has been issued in Latin for a quarter of a century. Most of the plants are autochthonous and characteristic of Romania's hill regions, a geographical area very rich in spontaneous flora. The "library" also contains seeds of cultivated species, some of them coming from the American, Asian and African continents. This is the outcome of ample scientific exchanges with specialists of over 100 botanical gardens in 70 world countries. Thus, on an area of several hectares, visitors can admire exotic plants side by side with autochthonous medicinal herbs.

The library is the education and research base of the Pharmacognosy Department of the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in the locality. What is the purpose of this activity? To bring out more and more new plant-based drugs. Dr. Gabriel Ilies, Chairman of Research Committee for Medicinal Herbs within the Romanian Academy and head of the Pharmacognosy Department, says that a trend of returning to a medical science and therapy closer to nature was initiated in the world a few years ago. A series of drugs based on natural raw materials



THE SHEPHERD DOG OF THE CARPATHIANS

There are many proofs of the oldness of the autochthonous shepherd dog. Nevertheless the shepherd dog of the Carpathians was but recently included among the standard breeds in the world. Today, the two autochthonous shepherd dog breeds have been acknowledged: Carpatinul and Mioriticul. Carpatinul is a massive, large size animal, used by the Romanian shepherds in defending the flock. Calm, equilibrated, but irresistible in case of attack, it can reach a weight of

50 even 80 kg, being able of fighting against both bears and wolves. Mioriticul resembles Carpatinul in size, courage and imposing appearance, but it has two different elements: its rich fur and drooping ears.

The imposing of the shepherd dog is connected to the northern part of Moldova, where grazi continues to be a main occupation. Ten years ago, a wonderful shepherd dog was discovered at a sheepfold on Bădăraş mountain. Presented in 1973 at a cynology exhibition in Bucharest, Moescu (that was the name of the dog) won "the most beautiful sheep-dog" trophy. Shortly after that, in 1981, the first national cynology exhibition was organized in Râdău town. That was the event when the autochthonous shepherd dog breeds Mioriticul and Carpatinul were homologated and standardized.

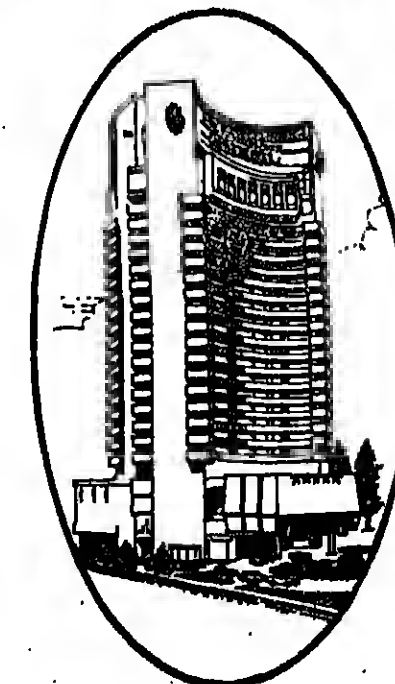
This was followed by the participation in specialized contests and exhibitions where the Rădău sheep-dog was the "spectacular" and the public's favourite. The number of medals has reached today 46. The Rădău branch of the Cynology Association of Romania is becoming the representative for shepherd dogs. Its animator, Gheorghe Creţ, has also initiated a training course for sheep dogs. "It was to prove" — he said — "that Mioriticul and Carpatinul are not only powerful and docile animals, but also intelligent and agile, like any other dog breeds".

ION BELDEANU
Photo: V. BOTANICU

Top and central: Aspects from the Botanical Garden of Tîrgu Mureş; centre: Two new shepherd dog breeds: Mioriticul and Carpatinul.

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CONTEST FESTIVAL

Every two years, the capital of Dolj county, Craiova municipality, holds — and this has become a tradition — at the end of May, the "Maria Tănase" festival and contest of Romanian folk singers. Organized for the first time two decades ago, in the memory of the greatest Romanian folk music performer, Maria Tănase, the event has become a festive framework for the discovery, assertion and conservation of interpretative values of folk music in all Romanian folk contests.

The recent tenth, jubilee edition, held between May 22 and 27 was, like the previous editions, a complex of events carried out at the same time: the Potluc Fair in the whole Oltenia area, a lecture series on the exploitation of folk songs, a Romanian costume and dance parade, at the same time, a series of artistic events, to which jazz and rock and instrumental soloists from the whole country as well as the most interpreters of Romanian folk songs participated, took place in numerous Dolj settlements.



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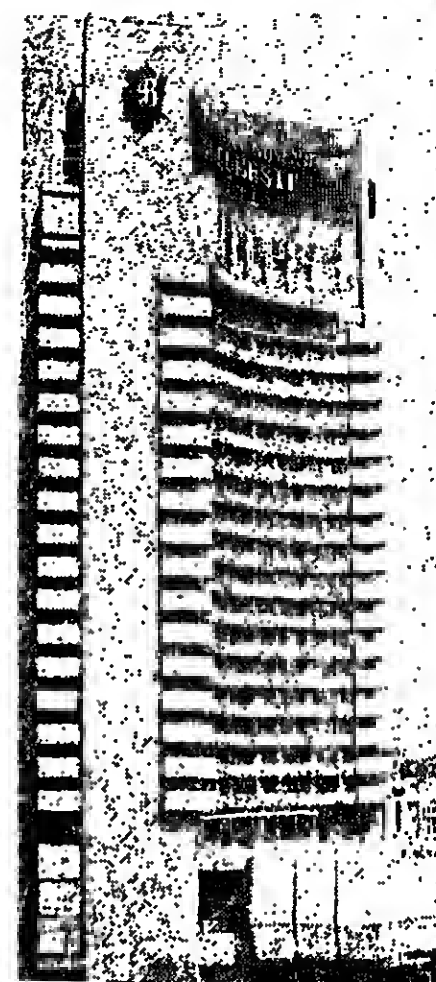
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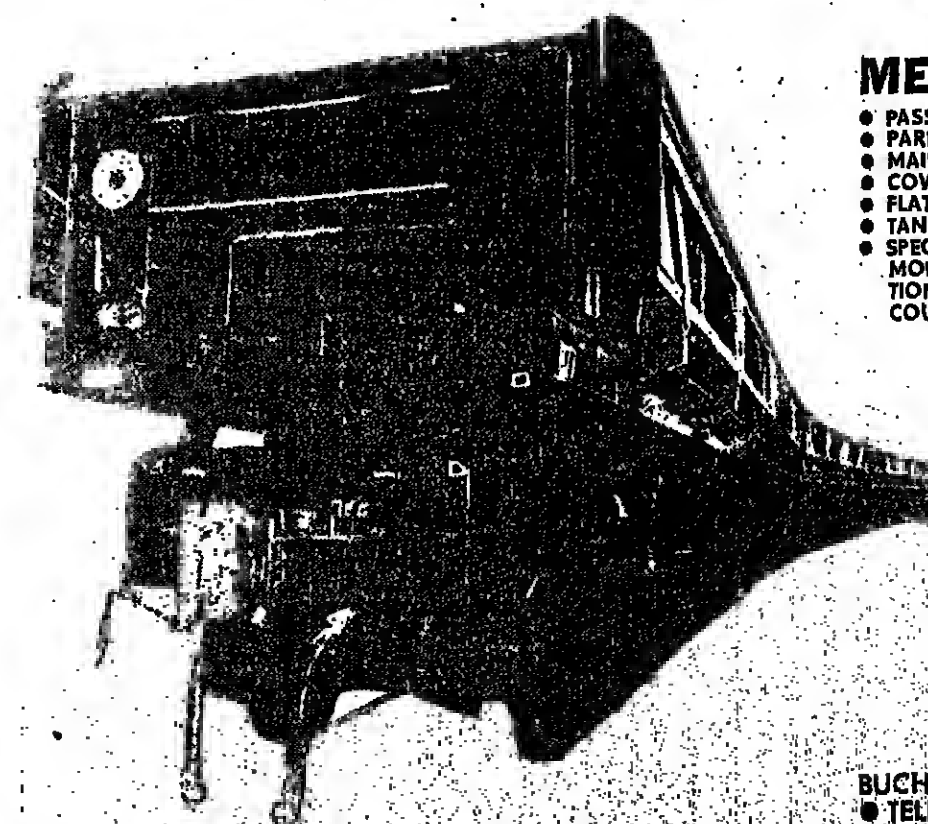
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